

TRANSCRIPTION - ORIGINAL FOLLOWS

Present were: The President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Generals Lemnitzer, Eddleman, LeMay and Shoup, and Admiral Russell).

1. The President stated he was considering a further supplement to the Defense Department's budget. He discussed the political and economic considerations affecting the declaration of a National Emergency, and stated he believed it would be wise to postpone the declaration of such an emergency until it was required as a foundation for the mobilization of our reserve forces. The Chiefs agreed such an action was not required now, and stated that it could be postponed until at least September 1.
2. The President asked if consideration had been given to the action which would should be taken by our allies to complement the force increases proposed in the Defense Department budget supplement. The Secretary and the Chiefs stated a list of actions to be recommended to the NATO nations had been prepared.
[6 lines excised]

3. [2 lines excised]

A copy of the Budget Supplement dated 7-16-61 was left with the President.

[REDACTED] *sanitized*
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MEMORANDUM OF MEETING ON DEFENSE - July 18, 1961

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1. The President stated he was considering a further supplement to the Defense Department's budget. He discussed the political and economic considerations affecting the declaration of a National Emergency, and stated he believed it was unlikely to postpone the declaration of such an emergency until it was required as a foundation for the mobilization of our reserve forces. The Chiefs agreed such action was not required now, and that it could be postponed until at least September 1.

2. The President asked if consideration had been given to such action which should be taken by our allies to complement the force increases proposed in the Defense Department Budget Supplement. The Secretary and the Chiefs stated a list of actions to be recommended to the NATO nations had been prepared.

3.

1/ A copy of the Budget Supplement dated 7-11-61 was left with the President.

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[REDACTED]
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[4 lines excised]

4. In response to a question from the President as to how we proposed to strengthen our ground forces, General Eddleman replied that he and I were agreed we should add personnel to the three STRAF divisions to make them combat ready by approximately December 1.

5. The President asked if the additional U.S. combat-ready divisions could be effectively employed if our allies took no action to strengthen their forces. General Lemnitzer stated, "No." However, Lemnitzer added that when combined with the increases in forces which we can expect from our allies, the additional U.S. forces will provide NATO with an expanded capability for non-nuclear ground action.

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